Dul-Hasti project

1412. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dul-Hasti project in the Jammu region was sanctioned many years ago;

(b) whether work on this project has been held up for various reasons; and

(c) by when the work on this project would be resumed and what is the expected date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Dulhasti HE Project was sanctioned in November, 1982 at a cost of Rs. 183.45 crores. However, the work on this Project could not start for want of funds. Thereafter, the project was sanctioned for turnkey execution by French Consortium in July, 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1262.97 crores.

(b) In August, 1992 the French consortium suspended work at the Project site citing the prevailing security environment.

(c) Work on the Project has resumed departmentally by NHPC in April, 1995. The contract for completion of balance civil works has been awarded to a new civil contractor.

Ad hoc Management in NTPC

1413. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the day to day functioning of NTPC is being handled by a Joint-Secretary level official in violation of norms following the regular Chairman proceeding on leave as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that delay in all matters is taking place because of not allowing the senior most director to function in the NTPC and the charge being given to a Joint-Secretary level officer by the Power Secretary;

(d) whether the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also objected to this step; and

(e) if so, what corrective measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Power dealing with NTPC and already a Director on the Board of Directors of NTPC was entrusted the responsibility of looking after the day-to-day functions of CMD. NTPC during the period of absence on leave of the regular incumbent of post of the CMD, NTPC for about a month. While making this arrangement, the Government had fully considered the existing guidelines for filling up the temporary vacancies of CMDs as also the relative suitability of various available members of the Board of Directors of Corporation.

(c) No, Sir. This arrangement did not, in any way, cause any delay or dislocation in the disposal of any matter handled in the NTPC or the Government.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Rationalisation of power Tariffs

1414. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rationalisation of the retail tariffs has been proposed in the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power issued by Government;

(b) whether the same envisages payment of not less than 50% of average cost of supply to any sector, including agriculture sector, within 3 years;

(c) whether any study has been made on the likely hike in the existing tariffs in agriculture/rural, industry and domestic sectors; and

(d) the impact of the hike on the price index in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Common Minimum National Action Plan (CMNAPP) for Power recommends no sector paying less than 50 per cent of the average cost of the supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise/kwh to be brought to 50 per cent of the average cost in not more than 3 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The impact could be determined only after final implementation of the CMNAPP recommendations by the States.

Power break down in the northern region due to dew drop

1415. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive power breakdown in the northern region and the national capital was caused by a tiny dew drop on the 400 KV support insulators as per technical evaluation report of NTPC;

(b) the precautions taken to avoid such incidents causing huge loss to exchequer and inconvenience to the people;

(c) how this "support insulator" was different from other similar insulators installed all over the country, which withstand rain, hailstorms and snow etc.; and

(d) whether the enquiry has shown negligance on the part of maintenance staff as a cause of this accident; if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The Committee of Experts' appointed by the Government to enquire into the causes of trippings at Dadri Complex of NTPC has reported that the incident on 20th December, 1996 which resulted in massive power breakdown in the Northern Region was triggered by tripping of the two Inter Connecting Transformers (ICTs), due to flashover on the 400 KV side of the ICTs. The dense fog in Dadri area on the morning of 20th December, 1996, coupled with mist from the cooling tower No. 4 which is in close proximity of the Switch-yard and pollutioin deposit on bus insulators bushing etc., in the yard were collectively responsible for the flashover and subsequent tripping of the two vital ICTs. The Committee also felt that adequate maintenance was lacking and no efforts were made for testing and chemically analysing the pollutants for taking proper preventive measures. The Committee has not fixed the responsibility on any individual but has identified the reasons for the frequent trippings at Dadri Complex Based on the recommendations of the committee. NTPC and Powergrid have been directed to take necessary follow up action.

Short Supply of Power to Small Scale Industries in Gujarat

1416. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electricity is not supplied for 24 hours to small scale industrial units in rural area of Gujarat;

(b) whether the rural feeder lines in that State are getting power supply for four hour only;

(c) if so, whether Government would give suitable directions to the State Government to supply electricity for 24 hours to SSI units in rural areas; and

(d) what remedial measures Government are taking to save the SSI units in the State because of non-supply of electricity?